

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 02529 140740Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DHA-02 TRSE-00 IO-13 EB-07 AID-05 CU-02
ACDA-07 SCA-01 OMB-01 DOTE-00 /096 W
-----140759Z 059200 /17

R 131446Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 849
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 2529

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE, SHUM, PINS, SW, PL
SUBJECT: VISIT OF POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER TO SWEDEN

REF: (A) STOCKHOLM 1701, (B) STOCKHOLM 2079

1. POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER EMIL WOJTASZEK PAID AN OFFICIAL
VISIT TO SWEDEN FROM JUNE 8 TO 11, IN RETURN FOR THE
VISIT TO WARSAW IN JUNE 1976 OF FORMER SWEDISH FOREIGN
MINISTER SVEN ANDERSSON. TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER FALLDIN,
FOREIGN MINISTER SODER AND OTHER TOP GOS OFFICIALS COVERED
COMMERCIAL, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL ASPECTS OF SWEDISH-POLISH
RELATIONS. THE DISCUSSIONS FOCUSED PARTICULARLY ON A
FIVE-YEAR TRADE AGREEMENT, AN AGREEMENT ON LEGAL AID AND
AN INCREASE IN CULTURAL EXCHANGES. THESE POSSIBILITIES
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PAGE 02 STOCKH 02529 140740Z

WILL BE FOLLOWED UP THIS WEEK WHEN GUNNAR SODER,
UNDERSECRETARY OF INDUSTRY, VISITS WARSAW AND, IN
AUGUST, WHEN MINISTER OF COMMERCE BURENSTAM LINDER
WILL VISIT POLAND. PRACTICALLY ALL PUBLICITY GIVEN
THE VISIT, HOWEVER, REVOLVED AROUND DIFFERENCES OVER
THE POLISH PRACTICE OF FORBIDDING THE ENTRY INTO
POLAND OF POLISH-BORN JEWS NOW HOLDING SWEDISH

CITIZENSHIP. PRESSURE FROM THE POLISH EXILE COMMUNITY IN SWEDEN AND MEDIA PUBLICITY ON THE ISSUE MADE IT CERTAIN THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SODER WOULD RAISE THE MATTER IN HER TALKS WITH WOJTASZEK.

2. ALTHOUGH A SWEDISH-POLISH BILATERAL AGREEMENT TO WAIVE VISA REQUIREMENTS WAS SIGNED SEVERAL YEARS AGO (AND DESPITE THE FACT THAT RELATIONS WITH POLAND ARE BETTER GENERALLY THAN WITH ANY OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRY), APPROXIMATELY 49 POLISH-BORN JEWS HAVE BEEN STOPPED AT THE POLISH BORDER IN RECENT MONTHS AND RETURNED TO SWEDEN, USUALLY AT GOP EXPENSE (REFTELS). TO REMIND WOJTASZEK THAT A PROBLEM EXISTS, SEVERAL HUNDRED MEMBERS OF THE POLISH EXILE COMMUNITY DOGGED HIM AT EVERY POSSIBLE POINT IN HIS VISIT, AT THE AIRPORT, AT THE MFA AND AT THE POLISH CULTURAL INSTITUTE. PLACARDS INSISTED THAT THE GOP: "STOP THE PERSECUTION IN POLAND," RELEASE MEMBERS OF THE WORKERS DEFENSE COMMITTEE, PERMIT THE REUNIFICATION OF SEPARATE FAMILIES, AND ALLOW SWEDISH CITIZENS TO VISIT POLAND.

3. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON JUNE 9, WOJTASZEK DENIED ABSOLUTELY THAT POLISH-BORN JEWS ARE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST AS A GROUP. "WE DO NOT EXCLUDE ANYONE ON THE BASIS OF HIS BIRTH," HE SAID, "BUT IF SOMEONE HAS COMMITTED A CRIME, WE WILL NOT ALLOW THEM TO ENTER AGAIN." WOJTASZEK ALSO CLAIMED THAT SWEDEN ON OCCASION HAS REFUSED ENTRY TO POLISH CITIZENS INTO SWEDEN. HE SAID HE WAS NOT REFERRING ONLY TO A RECENT GOS DECISION TO

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PAGE 03 STOCKH 02529 140740Z

STOP THE PROGRAM UNDER WHICH SEVERAL THOUSAND YOUNG POLES COME TO SWEDEN TO WORK EACH SUMMER, BUT TO "OTHER CASES" AS WELL.

4. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD ON THE SAME EVENING, FOREIGN MINISTER SODER INDICATED THAT WOJTASZEK HAD PROMISED TO INVESTIGATE WHY POLISH-BORN JEWS WERE BEING STOPPED WHEN ENTERING POLAND. EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS EMPHASIZED THE CONTRADICTION BETWEEN THE TWO STATEMENTS AND MOST HAVE CRITICIZED THE GOP ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THERE IS INDEED, DISCRIMINATION AGAINST POLISH-BORN JEWS NOW HOLDING SWEDISH CITIZENSHIP.

5. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY EXPECTS TO MEET WITH MFA CONTACTS WHO HANDLED THE VISIT FOR A DEBRIEFING. ONE MFA OFFICER HAS MENTIONED THAT AT LEAST THREE POLISH CITIZENS HAVE BEEN DENIED ENTRY INTO SWEDEN IN RECENT MONTHS, NOT BECAUSE THEY WERE POLES BUT AS "UNDESIRABLE PERSONS." GENERALLY SPEAKING, SWEDISH OFFICIAL CONTACTS WITH WARSAW HAVE BEEN CLOSER

AND BUSIER THAN WITH ANY EASTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT,
PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE. TO
JUDGE FROM THE PUBLIC REACTION, WOJTASZEK'S VISIT DOES
NOT APPEAR TO HAVE ENHANCED THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP
MUCH IF AT ALL.
PERRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
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Sent Date: 13-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STOCKH02529
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770211-0735
Format: TEL
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770662/aaaacbzdz.tel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 20b7c97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STOCKHOLM 1701, 77 STOCKHOLM 2079
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2170478
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER TO SWEDEN
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, SW, PL, CSCE, (WOJTASZEK, EMIL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/20b7c97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009